

Agricultural Department.

JAS. THOMAS, EDITOR

NOTICE:—All communications intended for the Agricultural Department should be addressed to JAS. THOMAS, Long Beach Miss.

Our Beautiful Coast.

So many letters are constantly received from the different sections asking information on the subject of the merits and demerits of our coast country that we deem it expedient to write a sort of epitomized account of the conditions here, and keep the matter in stock ready at all times as far as possible to answer the enquiries. This we take much pleasure in doing, because we are glad of the opportunity of helping the discontented of other less favored counties into the blessings which surround us.

The county of Harrison of which we are the fortunate inhabitants, lies along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, with a frontage on the same of some thirty miles or more, beside numerous bays and inlets. The Louisville and Nashville rail road runs along the entire breadth of the county some 2000 feet from the water's edge, and the stations are so arranged that no person living on the beach can be more than one and half miles from a station. A chain of islands extends along the main shore ten miles out in the Gulf making one of the greatest deepwater Harbors in the world. This is Ship Island Harbor.

The lands fronting the Gulf are divided into small lots generally half an acre in width, which is a Spanish half acre of 96 feet. The depth of the lots is from 1000 feet upward. The timber growth along the immediate front consists largely of live oak, magnolia, hickory, but sometimes of pine. The water in the gulf, next to the land is shallow for a half mile out, and this space is utilized in the planting of oysters, and for fishing and bathing. Oysters are taken from the main reefs and deposited near the shore, when they become the property of the person owning the land opposite and making the deposit. Generally there is large profits in the increase of the plantings. Fish, shrimp and crabs abound in the waters and can always be had for the taking. There are five large canning factories in the county, which are engaged in the canning of oysters and other shell fish and vegetables and fruit.

The soil of the country is a light sand, and without fertilization is not fit for the purposes of agriculture. For this reason agricultural occupation has been almost entirely neglected until within the last few seasons. But vegetables farms have now been opened. Commercial fertilizers adopted and farming here is proven beyond any question or cavil to surpass in profit the same business in any other part of this whole southern country. By reason of the lightness of the soil the nutriment furnished by the concentrated manures gives the vegetation a rapid growth and early maturity, which enables us to reach the markets of the country in advance of the season, thus giving us the most remunerative returns. One hundred and fifty dollars per acre have been made clear of expenses, and it is common to make \$100 per acre. String beans, cucumbers, squash, melons and potatoes are the vegetables mostly planted. Ten or twelve dollars will cover the amount spent per acre for fertilizers. A large expenditure would probably bring still larger profits, of course individual failures are often made, but they are due almost without exception to mistakes, and not \$100 and upward per acre are not realized it is most surely due to the faults of the planter or possibly to the season. Freight and express facilities are good and the rates reasonable. All shipments are made to the cities of the North. Long Beach which is the principal farming point in the county has been able to ship in car load lots by fast freight. After the spring crop is marketed a kind of clover and crab grass comes up on the land which is saved for hay, at the rate of one to two tons per acre. This commands ready sale at as high figures as the best western hay brings. The hay alone will more than pay for the fertilizers for the entire crop of the year. There is very little improved lands for sale along the immediate coast. The unimproved lands are worth from \$10 to \$25 per acre, the latter price being for lands on the rail-

road and near the stations. Farther back the land is as low as \$5 per acre and under. It is rather expensive to clear land, but generally the timber will pay for the clearing, if it is properly utilized. The prices of all grades of land are steadily advancing. The lots on the beach are \$3 to \$5 per front foot and on up to \$40 per foot. The ordinary cost of living here is no more expensive than elsewhere. New Orleans which is six miles away is a cheap market to buy anything in.

The cost of residence building is very low as lumber is exceedingly cheap. There is probably no more healthful country in the union than this coast, and many diseases, coming from other causes, such as malarial troubles, asthma and similar ailments, are almost invariably cured. There are fine Hotels at the different towns which are filled in summer by southern people and by tourists from the north in winter. The drives are most excellent and it is brought in prospect that a shellroad will be built across the county along the beach from Pass Christian to Biloxi. This will be one of the best and most attractive drives in the world when it is properly completed. School houses are in all neighborhoods and public schools are taught from four to eight months in the year. Churches are numerous enough to accommodate all worshippers. The supply of day labor is often below the demand at \$1.00 per day wages. Women and children often made good wages in the season for gathering vegetables. Most of the fruits succeed admirably especially pears, peaches, plums, grapes and figs. The dairy and poultry business are both profitable.

In conclusion we will venture to assert that we have a country full of greater blessings and fewer drawbacks than can be found anywhere. We are anxious to increase in population and we will give the hand of welcome to every good citizen who may come.

SWEET POTATOES.

The weather has been so dry that the first planting of potato slips has failed up to the last few days to make any runners, and consequently there seems to be a short crop planted. But this will no doubt be overcome now that showers have set in, making it very favorable weather for this kind of work. The potato crop is a very profitable one, constituting the meat and bread (and coffee) of very many families. Col. Claiborne said once that he stopped with a family in the pine woods over night, that gave him potatoes for bread potatoes for meat and potatoes for coffee, and that night they put him on a bed stuffed with sweet potato vines.

Many Persons

Are broken down from overwork or household cares. **Brown's Iron Bitters** rebuilds the system, aids digestion, removes excess of bile, and cures malaria. Get the genuine.

In the Bank of England.

An English journal says that the doors of the Bank of England are now so fluently balanced that the clerk, by pressing a knob under his desk, can close the outer doors instantly and they cannot be opened again, except by special process. This is done to prevent the daring and ingenious unemployed of the great metropolis from robbing the famous institution.

The bullion department of this and other great English banking establishments are nightly submerged in several feet of water by the action of the machinery. In some of the London banks the bullion departments are connected with the managers sleeping rooms, and an entrance cannot be effected without setting off an alarm near the person's head.

If a dishonest official during the day or night should take even as much as one from a pile of 1000 sovereigns the whole pile would instantly sink and a pool of water take its place, besides letting every person in the establishment know of the theft.—New York Tribune

Ripans Tabules cure the blues.

Her Son John. Few men have ever combined sternness and inflexibility of purpose with tenderness of heart to such an extraordinary degree as Stonewall Jackson. Of his kindness his widow relates this pleasing example in her biography of her husband:

Near the close of one of his most arduous campaigns an old woman called at his headquarters, and to the amusement of the young staff officers said that she had come to see her son John, who was with "Jackson's company." She was much surprised that they could not tell her where John was, for he had been with "Jackson's company" in all the battles.

Her persistency finally changed the young men's amusement to annoyance; but when General Jackson came in and heard her simple story he listened with as much politeness as if she had been some grand lady, and after gently reproving the young officers for laughing at her, he ordered that every company of his corps should be searched for John, who was at last found, to the inexpressible delight of his loving old mother.

Two Ways of Working.

A gentleman was overlooking a man at work in his grounds, who was emptying a tank by means of a bucket into the drain.

"What a lazy fellow!" he thought. "I could fill that bucket twice to his once." The more he looked the more his indignation increased, until at last he determined to show the man how to do his work. "Are you not ashamed," he asked, "to pour out no more than two or three pails a minute?" The man smiled, but said he could not well do more. "Well, I'll show you what more can be done." So he went to work with great zeal, and poured out six or eight pails a minute.

"Now," he said triumphantly, handing back the pail, "I've taught you a lesson. I hope you will profit by it." "Please your honor," said the man, "would you be kind enough to go on that way another five minutes?" "Why?" "Because I never doubted but six pails could be poured out in a minute, but what I want to know is how long you could go on at that rate?"—Washington Star.

Edam Cheeses in History.

The famous Edam cheeses which grace the table of every well kept hotel and restaurant in the country, said a prominent groceryman of this city, "are often a subject of inquiry as to what they are and whence they come. Their round shape, with that peculiar reddish purple tinge is a marked contrast with all other cheese productions of the world. There is nothing new fashioned about them, for if Colonial tradition is true, Myrbeer Peter Heyis, of Edam, Holland, who brought a lot in the hold of his Dutch ship in 1681 to the Delaware river, so tickled the fancy of the Indians with these old looking articles that he bought a large tract of land, afterward named the 'Valley of the Swans,' from the Redskins with a barrel of his Edam cheeses. After the cheese had been devoured the gentle aborigines repented themselves of their rash speculation, and a month later massacred the entire Dutch colony."—Philadelphia Press.

Costumes Not Gaudy Three Centuries Ago. It is a mistake to imagine that the streets of London in the sixteenth century presented a much more lively appearance than they do at present. The everyday dress of the people, even of the highest rank, was almost invariably made of broadcloth of a sober color, occasionally enlivened with velvet and smart ribbons. It was only on state occasions or festivities, parties, balls and public entertainments that the gay silks and velvets and the cloth of gold were exhibited, and it must be remembered that so costly were the materials which could then be employed in male or female dress that not unfrequently parents left their best clothes by will to their favorite children as a much valued legacy.—London Saturday Review.

A Bit of Scientific Investigation. James Whitcomb Riley tells a little story that charmingly illustrates the experimental tendency of humankind. On one occasion little James invited little Willie to come over to his house and spend the night with him. After the two had gone to bed James remarked, in evident surprise and pain, "Why, Willie! you didn't say your prayers tonight, did you?"

"No," answered Willie doggedly; "didn't say 'em tonight, didn't say 'em last night and ain't goin to say 'em tomorrow night. Then, if there ain't nothin' but get me, I ain't ever goin to say 'em."—Chicago News.

A Peculiar People. On the banks of the river Purus, in South America, is to be found a peculiar tribe of people—men, women and children—who have spotted skins of black and white. They live on the river banks or in the floating settlements in the lagoons and pass their whole lives in fishing.—London Tit-Bits.

Two Kinds of Unhappy People. There are two kinds of unhappy people in the world—Those who are sad because they are not known, and those who are miserable because they are known too well.—Ran's Horn.

Ripans Tabules: pleasant laxative.

The house World's fair bill provides for coining 10,000,000 silver half dollars as souvenirs of the fair, which shall pass as current money. One hundred thousand dollars is appropriated for the expense of the coinage. The bill also provides for bronze medals and 50,000 diplomas to be awarded to exhibitors at the fair.

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